

Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
Informal Rulemaking Process: Directional Drilling Revisions
Draft Rules, October 21, 2014

R649. Natural Resources; Oil, Gas and Mining; Oil and Gas.

R649-3. Drilling and Operating Practices.

R649-3-3. Exception to Location and Siting of Wells.

1. ~~Subject to the provisions of R649-3-11.1.2,~~ the division shall have the administrative authority to grant an exception to the locating and siting requirements of R649-3-2 or an order of the board establishing oil or gas well drilling units after receipt from the operator of the proposed well of the following items:

1.1. Proper written application for the exception well location.

1.2. Written consent from all owners within a 460 foot radius of the proposed well location when such exception is to the requirements of R649-3-2, or;

1.3. Written consent from all owners of directly or diagonally offsetting drilling units when such exception is to an order of the board establishing oil or gas well drilling units.

2. If for any reason the division shall fail or refuse to approve such an exception, the board may, after notice and hearing, grant an exception.

3. The application for an exception to R649-3-2 or board drilling unit order shall state fully the reasons why such an exception is necessary or desirable and shall be accompanied by a plat showing:

3.1. The location at which an oil or gas well could be drilled in compliance with R649-3-2 or Board drilling unit order.

3.2. The location at which the applicant requests permission to drill.

3.3. The location at which oil or gas wells have been drilled or could be drilled, in accordance with R649-3-2 or board drilling unit order, directly or diagonally offsetting the proposed exception.

3.4. The names of owners of all lands within a 460 foot radius of the proposed well location when such exception is to the requirements of R649-3-2, or

3.5. The names of owners of all directly or diagonally offsetting drilling units when such exception is to an order of the board establishing oil or gas drilling units.

4. No exception shall prevent any owner from drilling an oil or gas well on adjacent lands, directly or diagonally offsetting the exception, at locations permitted by R649-3-2, or any applicable order of the board establishing oil or gas well drilling units for the pool involved.

5. Whenever an exception is granted, the board or the division may take such action as will offset any advantage that the person securing the exception may obtain over other producers by reason of the exception location.

R649-3-10. Tolerances for Vertical Drilling.

1. Deviation from the vertical for short distances is permitted in the drilling of a well without special approval to straighten the hole, sidetrack junk, or correct other mechanical difficulties.

2. All wells shall be drilled such that the surface location of the well and all points along the intended well bore shall be within the tolerances allowed by R649-3-2, Location and Siting of Vertical Wells and Statewide Spacing for Horizontal Wells, or the appropriate board order.

R649-3-11. Directional Drilling.

1. Except for the tolerances allowed under R649-3-10, no well may be intentionally deviated unless the operator shall first file application and obtain approval from the division.

1.1. An application for directional drilling may be approved by the division without notice and hearing when the applicant is the owner of all the oil and gas within a radius of 460 feet from all points along the intended well bore, or the applicant has obtained the written consent of the owner to the proposed directional drilling program.

1.2. An application pertaining to a well with a surface location outside the tolerances allowed by R649-3-2 or the appropriate board order, but with the point of penetration of the targeted productive zone(s) and bottom hole location within said tolerances, may be approved by the division without notice and hearing conditioned upon the operator filing a certification included with the application that it will not perforate and complete the well in any other zone(s) outside of said tolerances without complying with the requirements of R649-3-11.1.1. Under these circumstances, no additional exception location approval under R649-3-3 is required.

1.23. An application for directional drilling may be included as part of the initial APD for a proposed well.

2. An application for directional drilling shall include the following information:

2.1. The name and address of the operator.

2.2. The lease name, well number, field name, reservoir name, and county where the proposed well is located.

2.3. A plat or sketch showing the distance from the surface location to section and lease lines, the target location within the intended producing interval, and any point along the intended well bore outside the 460 foot radius for which the consent of the owner has been obtained.

2.4. The reason for the intentional deviation.

2.5. The signature of designated agent or representative of operator.

3. Within 30 days following completion of a directionally drilled well, a complete angular deviation and directional survey of the well obtained by an approved well survey company shall be filed with the division, together with other regularly required reports.